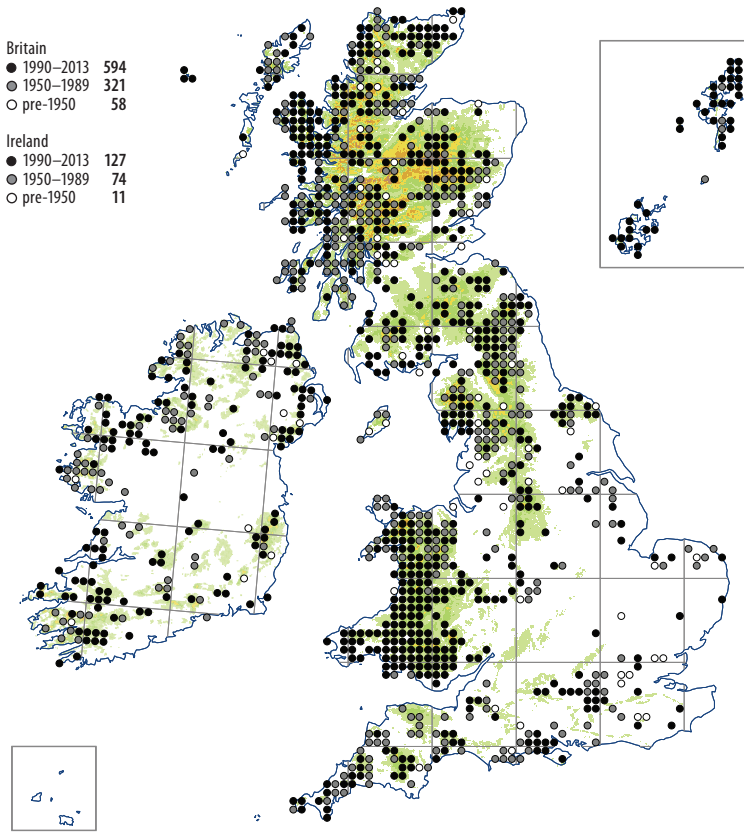


Sphagnum inundatum



It is found mainly in marshes and damp pastures, forming carpets among *Juncus acutiflorus* or *J. effusus*. It also occurs in open scrub, in ditches, and in moorland soaks where there is slight mineral enrichment. In basic flushes, it takes over from the more base-demanding sphagna such as *Sphagnum contortum* and *S. warnstorffii* towards the edges where mineral water is diluted by surface flow from moorland. Its main sphagnum associate is *S. fallax*, and it is surprisingly rarely mixed with *S. denticulatum*. Altitudinal range: 0–930 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, summer.

Occasional forms are intermediate between *S. inundatum* and *S. denticulatum*, but it is not known whether they are inconvenient phenotypes or genetic intermediates. The taxonomy of *S. inundatum* is complicated by a reticulated

pattern of evolution (Shaw *et al.*, 2005b). European populations are allopolyploids with *S. subsecundum* as the maternal parent. They originated independently from American allopolyploids. Some N American populations are haploids (Ricca & Shaw, 2010).

European Boreo-temperate. Most of Europe except the south and north, becoming rare towards the east. The extra-European distribution of the taxon is confused by the mismatch between morphology and phylogeny. If a broad definition is taken, *S. inundatum* is in eastern N America and may occur in eastern Asia. With the narrow, cladistic definition used by Shaw *et al.* (2012), *S. inundatum* becomes a European endemic.

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